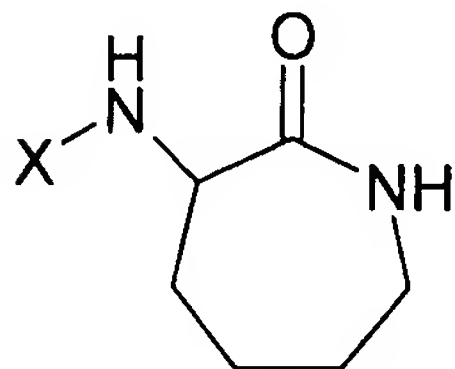


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (original): Use of a compound of general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the preparation of a medicament intended to treat an inflammatory disorder:



(I)

wherein

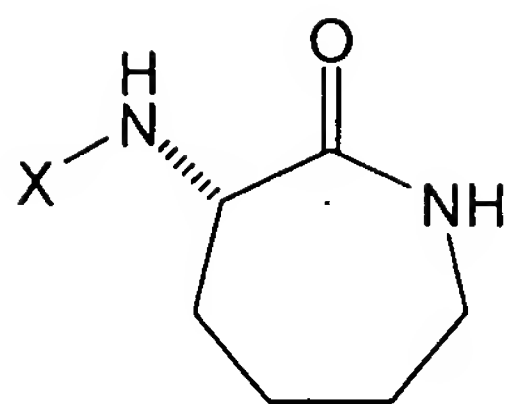
X is $-\text{CO}-\text{R}^1$ or $-\text{SO}_2-\text{R}^2$,

R^1 is an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms; of 13 to 17 carbon atoms.); and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms); or

alternatively R^1 and R^2 are selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds.

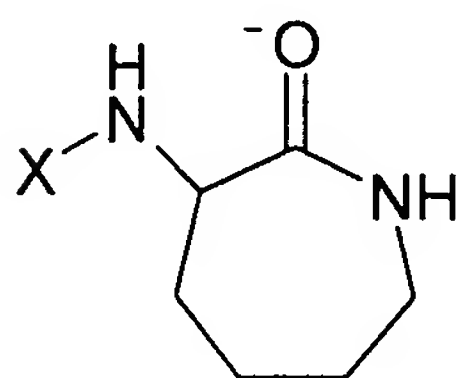
Claim 2 (original): Use of a compound of formula (I') or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the preparation of a medicament intended to treat an inflammatory disorder:



(I')

wherein X has the same meaning as above.

Claim 3 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising, as active ingredient, a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier:



(I)

wherein

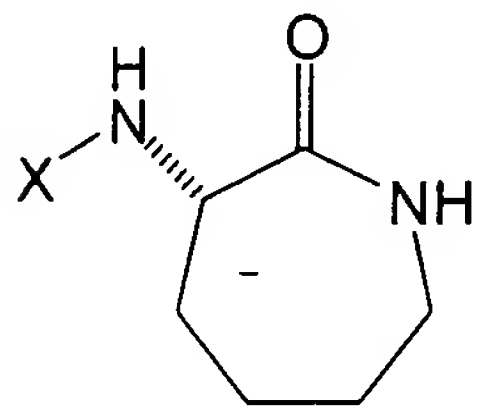
X is $-\text{CO}-\text{R}^1$ or $-\text{SO}_2-\text{R}^2$,

R^1 is an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 17 carbon atoms.); and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms); or

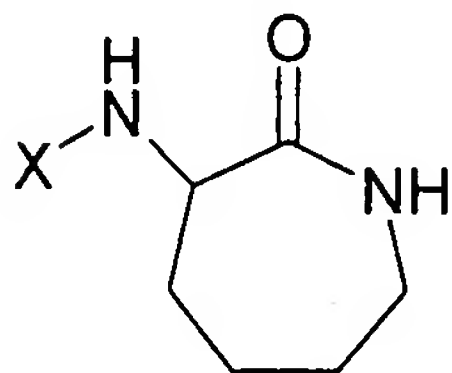
alternatively R^1 and R^2 may be selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds (for example a peptido radical of 1 to 4 amino acid residues).

Claim 4 (original): A pharmaceutically acceptable composition comprising active ingredient, a compound of formula (I') or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier:



(I')

Claim 5 (original): A compound of general formula (I):



(I)

wherein

X is $-\text{CO}-R^1$ or $-\text{SO}_2-R^2$,

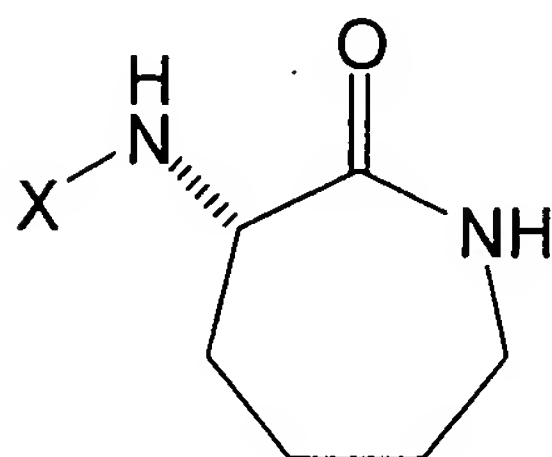
R^1 is an alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 17 carbon atoms.); and

R^2 is an alkyl radical of 4 to 20 carbon atoms (for example of 5 to 20 carbon atoms, of 8 to 20 carbon atoms, of 9 to 20 carbon

atoms, of 10 to 18 carbon atoms, of 12 to 18 carbon atoms, of 13 to 18 carbon atoms, of 14 to 18 carbon atoms, and of 13 to 17 carbon atoms); or

alternatively R^1 and R^2 are selected independently from a peptido radical having from 1 to 4 peptidic moieties linked together by peptide bonds.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A The compound of general formula (I'):



(I')

wherein X has the same meaning in Claim 5.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R^1 radical is linear.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein the alkyl, haloalkyl,

alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R¹ radical is branched.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl or alkylamino part of the R¹ radical is either linear or is branched but contains a linear chain of at least 8 or at least 10 carbon atoms.

Claim 10 (currently amended) : The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses according to claim 8 ~~or 9~~ wherein the R¹ radical has an alpha-carbon (2-position in X) which is substituted with one or two of the same or different groups selected from: alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl and alkylamino radicals.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses according to claim 8, ~~9 or 10~~ wherein the R¹ radical has an alpha-carbon (2-position in X) which is disubstituted with the same or different groups selected from: alkyl, haloalkyl, alkoxy, haloalkoxy, alkenyl, alkynyl and alkylamino radicals.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses according to claim 10 ~~or 11~~ wherein the alpha-carbon is chiral.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses according to claim 12 wherein the alpha-carbon has sp³ hybridised bonds.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The ~~Compounds~~ compounds, compositions and uses according to claim 12 wherein the alpha-carbon has essentially tetrahedral bond angles.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A The ~~use according to claim 1 or~~ a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, ~~or a compound according to claim 5,~~ wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- (S)-3-hexadecanoylamino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-undecanoylamino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(undec-10-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(undec-10-ynoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-dodecanoylamino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-tetradecanoylamino-caprolactam;
 - (R)-3-hexadecanoylamino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-octadecanoylamino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-(Z)-3-(hexadec-9-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-(Z)-3-(octadec-9-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (R)-(Z)-3-(octadec-9-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(2',2'-dimethyl-dodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(decyloxy carbonyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-(E)-3-(dodec-2-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(dec-9-enylaminocarbonyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(decylaminocarbonyl)amino-caprolactam;
- and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A The ~~use according to claim 1,~~ ~~or a~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, ~~or a compound according to claim 5,~~ wherein the compound is selected from the group consisting of:

- (R)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-dodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (S)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-pentanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (S)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-pent-4-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (S)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-propionyl)amino-caprolactam;

- (S)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-butyryl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S,E)-3-(2',2'-Dimethyl-dodec-4'-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(2',2',5'-Trimethyl-hex-4'-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(2',2',5'-Trimethyl-hexanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(11'-bromo-undecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(11'-azido-undecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S) Sodium 3-(undecanoyl)amino-caprolactam 11'-sulfonate tetrahydrate;
 - (S)-3-(Decanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(Dodecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(Tetradecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(Hexadecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-3-(Octadecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam;
- and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A ~~The use according to claim 1,~~
~~or a~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, ~~or a~~
~~compound according to claim 5~~ wherein the compound is selected
from the group consisting of: (S)-3-hexadecanoylamino-
caprolactam, (S)-3-(2',2'-dimethyl-dodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam,
(S)-3-(2',2'-dimethyl-propionyl)amino-caprolactam and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A ~~The use according to claim 1 or~~
~~a~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, ~~or a compound~~
~~according to claim 5,~~ wherein the compound is selected from the
group consisting of:

- (S)-3-(2'-Propylpentanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (3S,2'R) and (3S,2'S)-3-(2'-Ethylhexanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (S)-3-(3',3'-Dimethyldodecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (S)-(E)-3-(2'-Methyldodec-2'-enoyl)amino-caprolactam;
- (3S,2'R) and (3S,2'S)-3-(2'-Methyldodecanoyl)amino-
caprolactam;

- (3S, 2' S, 3' R)-3-(3'-Hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (3S, 2' R, 3' S)-3-(3'-Hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (3S, 3' R) and (3S, 3' S)-3-(3'-Hydroxy-2', 2'-dimethyldecanoyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-(2', 2'-Dimethyl-3'-hydroxy-propionyl)amino-caprolactam;
 - (S)-(3'-Chloro-2'-(chloromethyl)-2'-methylpropionyl)amino-caprolactam;
- and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The Use use of a compound of formula (I) or (I') according to ~~one of claims 1, 2, 15, 16, 17 and 18~~ claim 1 wherein the inflammatory disorder is selected from the group consisting of autoimmune diseases, vascular disorders, viral infection or replication, asthma, osteoporosis (low bone mineral density), tumor growth, rheumatoid arthritis, organ transplant rejection and/or delayed graft or organ function, a disorder characterised by an elevated TNF- α level, psoriasis, skin wounds, disorders caused by intracellular parasites, allergies, Alzheimer's disease, antigen induced recall response, immune response suppression, multiple sclerosis, ALS, fibrosis, and formation of adhesions.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A The method of treatment, amelioration or prophylaxis of the symptoms of an inflammatory disease (including an adverse inflammatory reaction to any agent) by the administration to a patient of an anti-inflammatory amount of a compound, composition or medicament as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1.

Claim 21 (currently amended): The Compounds compounds, compositions, and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or a method

of treatment according to ~~any preceding claim except claim 7~~
claim 1, wherein the substituent R^1 is not a straight chain alkyl group.

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~The Compounds~~ compounds, compositions, and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or a method of treatment according to ~~any preceding claim except claim 7~~
claim 1, wherein the substituent R^1 is a branched chain alkyl group.

Claim 23 (currently amended): ~~The Compounds~~ compounds, compositions, and uses of the compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), or their pharmaceutically acceptable salts, or a method of treatment according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the substituent R^1 is not an alkyl group.

Claim 24 (original): A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of an inflammatory disorder comprising, as active ingredient, (S,S) N,N'-bis-(2'-oxo-azepan-3'-yl) 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptadiamide or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or carrier.

Claim 25 (original): A synthetic intermediate, useful in the synthesis of compounds of general formula (I) or (I'), selected from the group consisting of:

- (E)-Methyl 2,2-dimethyl-dodec-4-enoate;
- (E)-2,2-Dimethyl-dodec-4-enoyl chloride;
- Methyl 2,2,5-trimethyl-hex-4-enoate;
- 2,2,5-Trimethyl-hex-4-enoyl chloride;
- 3,3-Dimethyldodecanoic acid;
- 3,3-Dimethyldodecanoyl chloride;
- (E)-Ethyl 2-methyldodec-2-enoate;

- (E)-2-Methyldodec-2-enoic acid;
 - (E)-2-Methyldodec-2-enoyl chloride;
 - (4S,2'S,3'R)-4-Benzyl-3-(3'-hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)-oxazolidin-2-one;
 - (4R,2'R,3'S)-4-Benzyl-3-(3'-hydroxy-2'-methyldecanoyl)-oxazolidin-2-one;
 - (2S,3R)-3-Hydroxy-2-methyldecanoic acid;
 - (2R,3S)-3-Hydroxy-2-methyldecanoic acid;
 - Methyl 2,2-dimethyl-3-hydroxy decanoate;
 - 2,2-Dimethyl-3-hydroxy decanoic acid;
 - 2,2-Dimethyl-3-(tetrahydropyran-2-yloxy)-propionic acid;
- and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof..

Claim 26 (currently amended): A The ~~use according to claim 1, or a~~ pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, ~~or a compound according to claim 5,~~ wherein the compound is (S)-3-(1',1'-dimethylundecanesulfonyl)amino-caprolactam or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.